

## CONFRONTING OUR ECONOMIC CHALLENGES RESPONSIBLY AND CREATIVELY



Representative  
Kelli Linville

Dear neighbors,

As you know, we are in the midst of an unprecedented economic situation. Like more than 40 other states feeling the pinch right now, Washington is confronted with a projected multi-billion dollar shortfall in the state budget. As your state representative and the chair of the budget-writing House Ways & Means Committee, I'm approaching this fiscal downturn with the optimism that through research, deliberation and public involvement, we can find solutions without abandoning our values.

The Governor proposed a budget in December, and the Legislature has used it as a starting point for developing the final budget. During this process, I've met with hundreds of constituents and organizations about how our limited resources would affect them. This is by no means a faceless, back room number-crunching process. Real people are directly affected, often profoundly so, by our choices.

I'm working collaboratively with my legislative colleagues, local officials, citizens and organizations to determine priorities and fund first things first - those core functions of government such as educating our children, training a skilled workforce and protecting the most vulnerable. We're also scouring agency requests and base budgets for places to cut any overlap and remove unnecessary barriers, so that we can maximize efficiency.

In February the Governor signed House legislation that identified more than \$600 million in savings for the current budget. We had to make many painful cuts to reach that number, and unfortunately it is just the beginning, as we must cut many times that amount in the next budget to close the projected gap.

Getting through this downturn won't be easy, but in the spirit of shared sacrifice, I know we can come together, as a community should, to address our challenges. Please know that I welcome your thoughts on these economic issues or any other topics related to state laws or services.

In service,

Representative Kelli Linville, 42<sup>nd</sup> District, Washington State House of Representatives

### CONTACT MY OFFICE

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House of Representatives

State of Washington

Chair, House Ways & Means Committee

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### **LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

- ENSURING FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY
- INVESTING IN EDUCATION
- MAKING HEALTH CARE ACCESSIBLE
- SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESS

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